

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 9, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-21, 24, 25 and 29-37 are pending. Claims 8, 10, 22, 23, 26-28 and 38-40 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 30 and 35 are amended above. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to Claims 3 and 23 for informalities. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from Claim 2, and Claim 23 has been cancelled. In view of the amendments, Applicants request that the objections be withdrawn.

A double patenting issue has been raised with respect to Claims 1-5, 11, 15, 16 and 22, with respect to Claims 1-5, 16, 6, 7 and 17 of commonly assigned US Patent Application Ser. No. 10/881,506.

Claims 1-7, 11-14 and 17-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US patent No. 6,331,098 (Lee), in view of US Patent No. 6,644,921 (Bunker). Claims 25-27, 29 and 36-40 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Lee, in view of Bunker. Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Lee, in view of Bunker, in further view of US Patent No. 6,234,755 (Bunker-2). The Examiner indicated that Claims 10, 23, 24, 28 and 30-35 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the claims.

1. Double Patenting:

The Examiner raised the issue of double patenting with respect to Claims 1-5, 11, 15, 16 and 22. The Examiner asserted that these claims are directed to the same invention as Claims 1-5, 16, 6, 7 and 17 of commonly assigned US Patent Application Ser. No. 10/881,506.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the additional recitations of original Claims 8 and 10. Claims 2-5, 11, 15 and 16 depend from Claim 1. The Examiner did not indicate that a double patenting issue exists for original Claims 8 and 10. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 1-5, 11, 15 and 16 present no double patenting issues.

Claim 22 has been cancelled. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection of Claims 1-5, 11, 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

2. 35 USC 103(a):

a. Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-18:

The Examiner indicated that original Claim 10 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended above to include the additional recitations of original Claims 8 and 10. Claims 2-7, 9 and 11-18 depend from Claim 1. In view of the above, Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-18 are believed to be in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-18 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

b. Claims 19-21 and 24:

The Examiner indicated that original Claims 23 and 24 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 19 is amended above to include the additional recitations of original Claim 23. Claims 20, 21 and 24 depend from Claim 19. In view of the above, Claims 19-21 and 24 are believed to be in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 19-21 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

c. Claims 25, 29, 36 and 37:

The Examiner indicated that original Claim 28 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 25 has been amended to include the additional recitations of original Claim 28. Claims 26-28 have been cancelled. Claims 29, 36 and 37 depend from amended Claim 25. In view of the above, Claims 25, 29, 36 and 37 are believed to be in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 25, 29, 36 and 37 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

d. Claims 30-34:

The Examiner indicated that original Claim 30 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 31-34 depend from amended Claim 30. In view of the above, Claims 30-34 are believed to be in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the objections to Claims 30-34 is respectfully requested.

e. Claim 35:

The Examiner indicated that original Claim 35 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 35 has been rewritten in independent form. In view of the above, Claim 35 is believed to be in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 35 is respectfully requested.

f. Claims 38-40:

Claims 38-40 are cancelled above.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-7, 9, 11-21, 24, 25 and 29-37 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of Claims 1-7, 9, 11-21, 24, 25, 29, 31-34 and 36, 37 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

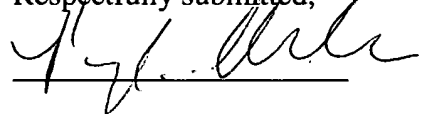
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Response and any other fees applicable to this application to the Assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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